



Fw: An Open Letter to EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson to Intervene in Dimock, PA because the State of Pennsylvania has Failed  
Kathy Hodgkiss to: Heather Gray

12/09/2011 09:48 AM  
**RECEIVED**

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From: Ron Borsellino/R3/USEPA/US  
To: Linda Boornazian/R3/USEPA/US@EPA  
Cc: Jon Capacasa/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Dennis Carney/R3/USEPA/US@EPA, Kathy Hodgkiss/R3/USEPA/US@EPA  
Date: 12/08/2011 10:18 AM  
Subject: Re: Fw: An Open Letter to EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson to Intervene in Dimock, PA because the State of Pennsylvania has Failed

## Ex. 5 - Deliberative

Thanks

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Ron Borsellino, Director  
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Linda Boornazian The meeting with the administrator is next friday 12/08/2011 09:25:14 AM

From: Linda Boornazian/R3/USEPA/US  
To: Ron Borsellino/R3/USEPA/US@EPA  
Cc: Jon Capacasa/R3/USEPA/US  
Date: 12/08/2011 09:25 AM  
Subject: Fw: An Open Letter to EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson to Intervene in Dimock, PA because the State of Pennsylvania has Failed

# Ex. 5 - Deliberative

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Linda Boornazian

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----- Forwarded by Linda Boornazian/R3/USEPA/US on 12/08/2011 09:23 AM -----

From: Ann Campbell/DC/USEPA/US  
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Date: 12/08/2011 07:18 AM  
Subject: An Open Letter to EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson to Intervene in Dimock, PA because the State  
of Pennsylvania has Failed

# Ex. 5 - Deliberative

Thanks,  
Ann

An Open Letter to EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson to Intervene in Dimock, PA   

Posted by Josh Fox  
Tuesday, 06 December 2011  
11:47

By Josh Fox  
on Tuesday, December 6, 2011

**An Open Letter to EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson to Intervene in Dimock, PA because the State of Pennsylvania has Failed**

Dear Administrator Jackson -

I am writing to you on behalf of all Pennsylvanians, appealing for your help in a matter of dire urgency.

Earlier this year, you gave me your word that you would apply federal EPA's might and enforcement capabilities. State governments were failing to protect citizens. I am writing to you to appeal for EPA's immediate intervention on behalf of families in Dimock, Pennsylvania who have been contaminated by Cabot Oil and Gas fracking activity. They urgently need EPA to step in and take over for Pennsylvania DEP and Governor Tom Corbett's abject failure to appropriately respond.

Before I go further into the details, I would like to thank you personally for all of your excellent work on fra people of gas drilling areas have cried out for help and you and your EPA have come to their aid time and ti

I am sincerely grateful for how responsive you have been to the nation's outcry for help in curtailing and rese damage being done by fracking for natural gas. Under your leadership, EPA has truly been listening to the c urgent complaints about fracking and fighting for environmental justice.

You heeded the citizens call to investigate groundwater contamination in gas drilling areas and you initiated a transparent 2 year groundwater study. We asked you to address the crisis of air pollution in gas drilling areas a into the extreme abuse and mishandling of toxic flowback wastewater from the fracking process and you have the adoption of strong new rules in both categories.

When you sat down for an interview with me in Gasland 2, I asked you to work with me and my staff as we id cases that needed federal attention. My exhaustive (and exhausting!) 3 1/2 years of ongoing research into the of gas fracking in the USA has brought me intimate knowledge of dozens of extreme cases of water contamin fracking areas and the hints of information into hundreds if not thousands more cases in the US.

Today, I am asking you to pay attention to the water contamination cases of 11 families in the now infamous a beleaguered disaster area known as Dimock, PA.

Dimock was the first stop on my tour of gas drilling areas throughout the USA for my film, GASLAND in Feb 2009. It is just 60 miles from my home in Northeastern PA, an area which has also been leased in large part fr and drilling. When I first got to Dimock, I was in utter shock at the sheer destruction that had taken place in j months of drilling and fracking there. The town was swarming with gas drilling and fracking trucks from Hal and Cabot Oil and Gas and there was a palpable state of fear and dismay from the residents who had been ove drilling industry that was running rampant over their previously beautiful and bucolic town.

Dimock first made the news when resident Linda Fiorentino's water well spontaneously exploded on New Year 2009, throwing the concrete well covering into the air and spreading debris throughout her yard. Many other c water contamination quickly followed: water with explosive levels of thermogenic natural gas, water which te positive for industrial fracking chemicals, water that had turned black, water which made animals and resident drinking. In a few short months of drilling, Dimock had become a disaster area, its residents shellshocked.

In those early days, most residents were very shy of the media and were afraid to speak out about what was ha them. They are decent, hard working people, striving to maintain a middle class foothold and who are not the folks who go running to the nearest reporter or lawyer when something wrong happens to them. They gave th companies the benefit of the doubt, contacted them to try to help and, most importantly, sought help from the determine the problem. What happened after that is a disgrace to the state of Pennsylvania and to our nation.

Cabot Oil and Gas continually harassed the residents and denied any wrongdoing. They mounted a smear car against those complaining of water contamination and stirred up local resentment against the families, publish page ads in local papers claiming that the families whose water was contaminated were being dishonest.

In October 2010, PA DEP, under the auspices of then Governor Ed Rendell and Secretary John Hanger, deter

Cabot Oil and Gas had contaminated the residents' water, and recommended that a municipal water line be installed for the families. The water line would cost 12 million dollars. Pennsylvania stated it intended to sue Cabot Oil and Gas to pay for it. It was the intention of the designers of the water line within the Rendell Administration to create precedent in Pennsylvania for fracking: contaminate water, pay for the restoration of clean water to residents. The court also ruled that Cabot Oil and Gas had to supply replacement water to the families until the water line could be installed.

Cabot Oil and Gas continued to deny that they had anything to do with the contamination and posed numerous obstacles to the water line, effectively miring the solution in political controversy in the waning days of the Rendell Administration.

A few months later, Governor Tom Corbett took office, backed by 1.6 million dollars in campaign contributions from the gas industry, appointing Michael Krancer head of DEP. The permanent water line was cancelled, and the DEP stopped returning the families' phone calls.

Up until November 30th Cabot Oil and Gas has been delivering bottled water and water for showering and cleaning to families in large tanks (known as water buffaloes) to the families. But on November 30th the water stopped.

In spite of numerous contaminants in the water linked to fracking and in spite of continued high levels of methane in the water, Tom Corbett's PA DEP told Cabot that they no longer had to supply replacement water. Tom Corbett's administration, beyond all sanity, has determined that Cabot Oil and Gas has no more responsibility in this matter, leaving families on their own, without water. According to Tom Corbett's DEP, the water contamination magically disappeared.

Tomorrow, along with Mark Ruffalo, RiverKeeper, NRDC, Frack Action, United for Action and a host of others, I am traveling to Dimock with a water truck from New York State to deliver clean water to the families.

We need EPA to step in. We need EPA to hold Cabot Oil and Gas accountable and continue the water delivery to Dimock. And we need EPA to join us in asking that Tom Corbett and PA DEP be investigated by the PA Inspector General for corruption and violation of the state constitution.

We would like to ask you to help bring the facts of this case to light and to aid in the following considerations:

- Carter Road in Dimock should be considered a disaster area: eleven families are without safe water to drink and live in hazardous conditions. The State of Pennsylvania and the gas company that caused the contamination should provide relief, but if they refuse, EPA should join with citizens and elected officials to get the job done, because it's their responsibility to do.

- The DEP determined in 2010 that Cabot Oil & Gas Corp.'s fracking activities were to blame for severe water contamination and ordered that a water pipeline be constructed. But plans for the pipeline were later scrapped. When Corbett's administration came into office.

- If this were a flood, a hurricane, or other natural disaster, there would be no question that victims deserve relief. But Mother Nature doesn't make campaign contributions. The oil and gas industry, however, has spent \$747 million dollars on campaign cash and lobbying expenditures to influence Pennsylvania elected officials at the federal and state levels, according to a recent report from Common Cause PA.

commonly used as antifreeze in-fracking fluids and is considered toxic.

Also, please speak to this apparent misstatement by EPA Region 3:

Last week a public outreach staffer from EPA Region 3 emailed the Dimock families stating that water sample failed to show contaminant levels that would trigger emergency EPA intervention under the Safe Drinking Water Act. However, the decision by EPA Region 3 not to act was based on a partial review of data with no independent EPA, using the data provided by Cabot and the DEP (flawed for the same reasons listed above).

I write this letter wishing that this case in Dimock was an aberration, an isolated case that bears no resemblance to others. However, this is not the case. There are hundreds if not thousands more Dimocks out there that will not attract attention in the future if fracking is not curtailed immediately and if there is no enforcement by the federal government of contamination cases.

We need you to show the strength and resolve that is your hallmark in this extremely important case and we are happy to work with you to provide more information.

I would suggest that a thorough investigation take place, similar to the investigation in Pavillion, Wyoming that was so rigorous and thorough. And I would suggest that the families immediately receive replacement water as is done in Pennsylvania and as Americans.

Again, I thank you for your leadership, your compassion and your clear and noble determination to fight for environmental justice. I hope to hear from you on this matter in the future.

Sincerely and respectfully and in support,

Josh Fox

Director, GASLAND

Milansville, PA

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